

## The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1908.

## THE LABOR BUREAU AND THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Labor Commissioner Doherty may be entirely right in maintaining that the law which created his office did not contemplate the attachment of individual names to his specific statements of industrial conditions in the State. Yet it is evident enough that the two cannot be fairly separated. So far as publicity is supposed to be a wholesome purgative, the present plan is worse than a failure. It smears all the offenders, while throwing an unmerited cloud over all the innocent. In the present state of public information any bakery in the State may be that "No. 46," which the commissioner says "should be cleaned or suppressed, as in its present form it is a certain propagator of disease."

It would be far better for the bureau to publish no report at all than to publish a kind of half-and-half affair, which could have no possible effect beyond disturbing and unsettling the popular mind.

The Labor Bureau seems to be somewhat isolated in the political economy of the State, anyway. It does not connect directly with anything, does not fit compactly into any machinery of amelioration. Its only function is to gather material which the Governor may or may not use, as the basis of recommendations to the Legislature.

The case of the bakeries makes the gap here very apparent. Unsanitary and disease-breeding conditions at the source of food supplies obviously demand the promptest sort of remedy, and two years may easily elapse between the collection of data of this sort and its submission in evidence to the law-making body. In this instance, at least, it would seem that we need fresh laws less than the effective enforcement of those we have. Would not the commissioner's report, so far as it concerns the bakeries, be more appropriately directed to the State Board of Health or the Pure Food Commissioner than to Governor and Legislature? Surely there is testimony here on which these offices could proceed to immediate action.

The report, under the present system, is merely a document thrown into the air. As to the matter of publication, however, it is pretty hasty to conclude that the act creating the Labor Bureau should be amended to require the commissioner to identify by name all the plants he reports upon. If the investigations of the commissioner are accompanied by warnings, official or unofficial, where necessary, as we assume that they are, improvements ought certainly to follow on his visits. Proprietors are often ignorant of conditions in their establishments, and they seem entitled to a warning in any case. Much of the data in this report is four, six or eight months old. Probably much of it no longer applies, and its publication would work a hardship to such men as, after a warning, have had a thorough house-cleaning. If any bakery proprietor is adjudged unworthy of warnings, or of opportunities to improve and continue, it would seem more orderly to close him up officially than to run away with his business by belated publicity.

But this is by no means to say that wrong-doers should have the benefit of a kind of semi-secrecy, which can work only unfairness to those who have done no wrong. Conditions such as this report describes must be instantly grappled with. They cannot wait for the convening of the Legislature in 1910, nor do they need a Legislature to deal with them. Is there any legal or logical reason why all of Mr. Doherty's facts should not be put at the disposal of the State Board of Health as the basis for immediate procedure? The Times-Dispatch knows of none. The bare fact is that Mr. Doherty's office, not ordinarily looked to as a point of origin for vigorous vivacities, has for one collied with a very live wire, and its findings must be dealt with accordingly.

## THE WINTER SOLISTICE.

Under many names, in all lands north of the equator and in all times from the earliest period of recorded history, mankind has feasted and rejoiced on or about the 21st of December, for then the sun stands still in his southern course and prepares to return, bringing once more in his train warmth and light and life—the flowers of spring, the rain of summer, and the fruits of autumn. Centuries before the Christian era roared Scandinavians, in their snowy forests, hung green boughs over rude cabin doors at Yuletide as a promise of the coming spring, and as far south as Rome soldiers roared and shouted through the streets in honor of the birthday of the unconquered sun.

To Scandinavia and to Italy, China was not in those days even a name.

## Borrowed Jingles

My neighbor aint a loafer,  
 He eateth rabbit, too;  
 He loveth brie and eadam  
 And he loveth to be viewed.  
 My neighbor wakes at midnight  
 And shrieks with sudden pain;  
 Quicker than the costly medicine  
 And treats him for his ailment.

I eat my humble dinner,  
 I eat my chop and pie;  
 Perhaps with indignation  
 I suffer by and by.  
 The blood of family doctor  
 My case in hand do take;  
 And as he spreads a plaster,  
 He calls it stomach ache.

Great Tribute.  
 "That's a fine sentiment which Baxter has carved on the monument he bought for his wife's first husband."

Why Reason.  
 "The reason that man has such utter contempt for everything west of the Alleghenies."

Quitting So.  
 "In Paris they have little wine shops where you pay by the hour for what you drink."

No Kissing.  
 "How did you get yourself disliked by Miss De Style?"

New Year Verse.  
 "About the only rhyme for roses is roses."

The Indefatigable Paraphraser.  
 "It was 300 years ago yesterday since Milton was born, and most people would find it hard to believe that he had played with—Pittsburg Gazette-Times."

Copper men.  
 "There's a stillness in the mountains," begins a Tennessee poet. There is also a "still" of some kind, we suspect—Washington Herald.

A Chapel That "Doesn't Pay."  
 Rebuke continues to pour down upon the head of the Trinity Corporation, in New York for its determination to abandon little St. John's chapel. The corporation's position is frankly economic: St. John's "doesn't pay."

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.  
 Gravers of the cocoa bean in South and Central America are planning a trust to control the price of cocoa.

The woman suffrage bazar, recently held at the Hotel Marlborough, Washington, D. C., will city the receipts for the two days and evenings were over \$300.

The government of South Australia has recently purchased 1,600 acres of land for the purpose of establishing a dairy farm, the best modern methods in dairy farming.

French walnut-growers in the neighborhood of Lyons have formed an association to maintain the reputation and guarantee the quality of the walnuts commonly known as "Grenobles."

There are 57,000 models in the Patent Office which are about to be lodged in the National Museum. Many of them are of historic interest. They will be under the care of the Commissioner of Patents.

The women of Mexico have organized a mothers' congress, which will hold its first meeting this month. The president is Signora Leonora Lopez, and the object is to aid all mothers who need protection, advice or assistance.

The efforts now being made for direct communication with the United States will also include the transportation of mail. Grain is largely imported from Russia. Bergen is the largest importation point of Norway. Rye is admitted free of duty.

Mrs. Caroline P. Nixon, who lit the first light in the Abbecon Lighthouse, now known to thousands of sailors as the "Old Light," died at Atlantic City, at the age of seventy-six. Mrs. Nixon was the widow of John P. Nixon, first keeper of the Atlantic City light, and his son, who was killed by a steamship for sixteen years before his death twenty-three years ago.

Dr. Rosa Liebig, of Marshalltown, Ia., holds the different positions in the Eastern Star; she is officially appointed humane officer of the county, and is also secretary of the poor and secretary of a private company. She was once at Washington special agent of the Bureau of Commerce and Labor.

## The Courts of Europe

By  
 La Marquise de Fontenay

Inside History of Boer War.  
 THAT Lord Saborno, the high commissioner and governor-general of South Africa, should have given his consent, not only to the return to South Africa of Dr. Leyds, but also to the proposal of General Botha, among most of those who recall the activity displayed by this Boer leader, is a fact of which it is difficult to find a precedent.

Advantage of Shortness.  
 "I'm afraid you're not tall enough for a purveyor of matrimonial interviewing an applicant at the registry office."

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## Voice of the People

Sonnet by Beverley D. Tucker.  
 Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir—I find the following sonnet in a copy of the June, 1889, "Old Guard," with corrections in pencil, evidently in the hand of a scholar, and think the same worth preserving.

A Sonnet.  
 (By Beverley D. Tucker.)  
 No, no; not here, no strain of passing song  
 Shall breathe her name, nor midst the throng  
 Shall we on the corridors of thought  
 Along the busy mind  
 Be lulled to rest; borne on the mid-  
 night wind,  
 Her voice comes—comes like the  
 weird to  
 Of phantom bells, until my very soul  
 Chimes with memories; until my brain  
 feels  
 Her presence; until imagination steals  
 Her image from the skies. And when  
 once more the vision comes, the crown  
 of glory of the American arm  
 On Friday, September 22, 1870, the  
 treason of Arnold was laid bare.

On Friday, February 22, George Washington, the father of American freedom, was born. On Friday, June 17, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. On Friday, September 22, 1870, the treason of Arnold was laid bare.

On Friday, October 17, 1781, the surrender of Cornwallis was made. On Friday, July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. On Friday, September 22, 1870, the treason of Arnold was laid bare.

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